

Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

**4543 Private  
Robert Clifford Palmer**

**3rd Battalion**



2080706N

3rd A.I.F.

Palmer Pte. R.C. 4543,

(K. Apl. 9/17)

"He was buried between Hermies and Velu Wood not far from Sunken Road."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Lt. W.F. Elliott,  
3rd A.I.F.,  
3rd London General Hospt.,  
Wandsworth.

Home address:  
Werrington,  
N.S.W.

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20/10/17,  
right.

FRANCE

3rd BATT. A.I.F.

PALMER. R.C. 4543.

X. April 9th. 1917. Det D/B.

He comes from Inverell, N.S.W. He was a bomber and a good man. I saw him killed outright by machine gun fire right on the parapet of the German strong post when we were attacking Hermies on April 9th. I can see the spot now. He was buried near the parapet and the place is between Hermies and the canal bridge about 600 yards behind the cemetery. I planted his rifle on the top of his grave.

JEA

Ref ---Pte Parker. 933D.  
No 16 Gen. Hospital.

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Le Treport. Oct 14th. 1917

3rd Batn  
A.I.F.

PALMER  
R.C. 4543

"Killed April 9th 1917"

R.C. Palmer was in the same Coy., with me. He was killed on Easter Monday morning. There was a stunt on at a place called Hermies and we had all followed our barrage and were waiting for a second or two to get into the German Trenches when our barrage lifted we were held up by Machine Gun Fire. Palmer was shot clean through the heart. He was buried with two other boys at a place called Bagimtz. I made a cross and put the names of two other lads who had been killed, three names on the cross. It was a good sized cross and the three names were R.C. Palmer R.S. Osborne and D. Fry.

The burial place was not a regular cemetery but the part of a field alongside the village.

Inf. Pte. F.G. Thomas  
D. Coy., 3rd Batn  
No 1 Command Depot.  
Sutton Venny.

London, 29.10.17.

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3rd Battn.  
A.I.F.

Palmer.  
R. C. 4543

"Killed 9.4.17"

We were both in C.Coy. and were in advance together at Hermies. Did not see him killed but helped bury him near there in open country in a marked grave where there are about 50 other graves together. He was killed outright by a bullet in the head. Cpl. Leonard Watsford Pl. 11. C.Coy. and L/Cpls. R.O. & H.C. Leggett of same Pltn. (now at an O.T. Camp in England) also in the burial party and will confirm. I came over with Palmer.

Witness:-

J. Morrison 4517.  
C.Coy. 11 Pltn. 3rd Battn.  
Southall.

L.P.J.

London.  
31.10.17.

S.

Howe

22d Nov. 1917

3rd AUSTRALIANS

PALMER, R.O. 4543

K. 9.4.17. Det. D/B.

I knew Pte. Palmer of D Co. He came from Sydney in the 14th to the 3rd Reinforcements in the "Osterley" on the 15th Jan. 1915. He was about 23, tall, slim, medium complexion, cleanshaven. He was killed at Hermit on April 9th, 1917 and buried in the open on top of the ridge. I saw the grave. There was a stick in it with his name in pencil on a piece of paper. I could point out the spot.

Informant: Pte. M.D. Gray, 4471  
3rd AUSTRALIANS, D Co., 16th Pltn.,  
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

RHM

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